## Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau

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August 10, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street Southwest Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations; (WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).

## Dear Chairman Genachowski:

Michigan's Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau currently represents Bay County, Midland, County and Saginaw, County. Our mission is to gain overnight tourism visitation to our region through marketing efforts for the advancement of tourism economic development, community development and jobs creation. As you may be aware, tourism ranks as one of Michigan's top three industries; with visitors coming to our Region from every continent on the planet. Tourism also ranks within the top three uses of the Internet today.

It is easy to understand why members of Michigan's tourism industry desire state of the art service. The speed and reliability of our community's broadband is a direct determinant of all our businesses' success in the global marketplace; especially in the area of tourism. Without consistent mobile coverage and cutting-edge speeds for downloading information, all businesses will struggle to keep up with competitors. No tool is more fundamental to our global economic success than broadband access and no tool is more important to the traveling public than the Internet.

Let this letter serve as our written support of the proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile USA as a means to provide more reliable broadband to our region and to the entire State of Michigan. We urge your support of this effort and would like to thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annette M. Rummel

President/CEO

